

**Robert Adam to George Washington, January 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ. ¹

DEAR SIR

I am favoured with yours, as Also for Mr. Young which I have delivered him; he seems Satisfyed with your proposal and senceable that he will save more than he Could in Such a place as Bladensburgh from the Wages he had there, And now waits upon you himself —I have Dropt two lines to the Doctr. desireing to let me know if there was any particular reason for his leaveing his Employ when I receive an Answer I shall Comunicate it to you —

In regard to the duty if it was petitioned for to be Local Im doubtfull some difficulty would Arise in transporting Rum from on[e] district to another by which it might Injure the trade of the Other Rivers in the Same way we are Situated with Maryland it is Customary to transport Rum from One District to Another with a Permitte, that, it has been Legally entered & paid the duty Suppose this District was exempted from duty & that sum made good in the manner proposed, Any Rum transported from this River to any other the permitte could Only express that it had been entered but no duty paid, it must therefore be Subject to the duty if carryed to any other district, or be Runn in to these Rivers in the same manner it is from Maryland here, And this I'm Affraid would be too much the Case, but were there no inconvenances of this kind I'm Certain the Mode proposed would Raise a larger Sum than is at present Colected at the Office, and was it possible to have the

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Law made Generall I'm Confident it would Raise more than is at present Colected from all the Offices but this might be better Acertained upon a further enquiry Should the Plan proposed not take it might be the means of introducing some other wc. might answer the same purpose I wish some thing Effectual could be done, its both a pity & a Shame that this River & Country Around Should be so Effectually debared from Carrying on A Trade that in must benefit allmost every Individual and whose its Natural Channel should be from the West Indies here, and not the Round about way from Philadelphia here at Second hand, I am in hopes some plan may be fallen on for our Relief And I hope you will Interest your self in our behalf till we may by perseverance perhaps gain some Relief

I am Sir Your Most Humb: Servant ROBERT ADAM

1 Indorsed "January 7. 1774."